

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 15 has been amended via the changing of F to F'. This overcomes the issue raised on page 4 first full paragraph of this Office Action.

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims supersedes any previous listing. Favorable reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim amendments/Status

The claims have been amended in manner to clarify that the invention comprises an arrangement wherein each individual filter comprises a ring-like dielectric resonator element with an eccentric round cutout formed therein. This cutout is in the form of a circular-cylindrical through-hole having an axis. Accordingly, the axis of the cavity about which the dielectric element is rotatable is offset with respect to the axis of the ring-like dielectric resonator element - see Figs. 12 and 13, for example.

Such a feature provides an economic, compact, robust device having good radiofrequency characteristics (see e.g. English translation of the PCT specification, page 3, lines 32-38 and figure 18 wherein the curve frequency vs. angle shows a large and straight central part.

Such a feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by any cited references or any combination thereof.

Therefore the rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) based on Nishikawa et al. or a combination of Nishikawa et al, with one or more of the Ishikawa et al.; Cavey or Wenzel et al. references, are respectfully traversed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-31 remain pending in the application.

Specification

The specification has been reviewed and amendments corresponding to those suggested by the Examiner have been made. To facilitate ease of entry/review, the changes have been implemented in the form of a substitute specification. This is accompanied by a marked-up copy which faithfully reflects all of the changes which have been made.

Attention is called to the fact that the subject matter of claim 8 was supported in the originally filed specification – see page 5, lines 10-12, and that amendment in this connection is not possible.

Drawings

The drawings have been amended via the changing of F to F' in Fig. 15. This overcomes the issue raised on page 4 first full paragraph of this Office Action.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as they have been amended are allowable over the art which has been applied in this Office Action. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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